The Pennsylvanian - NYC to Chicago - A Postal History - The Synopsis

Notable Railroad Route With Stops In Six States

A postal history one-frame exhibit illustrating the mail from old post offices along the route of the ***Pennsylvanian***, a daily train from NYC to Chicago. For a long period it was called the *Broadway Limited*. The story is about the postal history of the mail posted from the **28** towns that were stops/stations along the route. The ***treatment*** is very lucid: A view of the mails from 1795 to 1900 utilizing this famous RR route as the core of the cover choices.

This exhibit does not show RPO's/Station Agent markings or numerous other Railway related markings.

Purpose: A succinct and meaningful study of the postal history of the P. O.'s of the same name as the RR station stops. The storyline tells a narrative through the covers via commonly used practices of postal history: Rates, Routes, and Markings.

Key Message: Post Offices were mostly in place before the arrival of the western advancement of the Railroad from NYC to Chicago.

Covers: Every reasonable attempt has been made to show a postal history cover reflecting important aspect(s) of the mails at that time. For example: A meaningful variety of postmarks are shown.

Fun: The general viewing public should be able to take pleasure in and learn from this exhibit covering the time from George Washington's Presidency to the start of the 20th Century.

Items of Note:

a.) NYC Clamshell

.) Varied postal markings, i.e. double & single line ovals, manuscripts, & hand stamps

c.) Significant variety of rates shown

d.) A Bishop's Mark & A Tin Hat

e.) Free Franks

f.) Red, Green, Black & Blue color markings

g.) A Straight Line in a box

Observation: Many of the more common appearing covers in this exhibit, those post-1860, ***in terms of difficulty of acquisition*** were the most painstaking to locate. Those towns had smallish populations during this era of the establishment of the P. O.'s and the arrival of the RR. *A good example is the 1900 Waterloo IN cover.*

Presentation: Exhibit is prepared in what is now referred to as the *"The Schwartz Style"* of Postal History presentation. The order of the exhibit is the *westbound route* from NYC to Chicago with a few *eastbound only* shown in the correct geographical sequence.

Importance: The development of the U. S. postal system in concurrence with the westward expansion of the rail system is fundamental in aiding the understanding the growth of the U. S.

Personal Note: My late grandfather worked as the Steward in the dining car from about 1920 to 1960 on the PRR (*The Pennsy*) from NYC the long-distance trains of his time. He spent his working life on the rails and this exhibit is a tribute to his lasting memory.